

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 16912 100307Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----096617 101319Z /44
R 091411Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6643
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 16912

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, IS, JO, US
SUBJECT: GOI RESPONSE ON MAQARIN - NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 268185, TEL AVIV 15607

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 5, 1978, FROM
MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR MOSHE ALON TO E/C COUNSELOR SAMUEL
HART IS THE GOI'S RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 25:

BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR SAM,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 25TH. OUR POSITION
ON THE MATTER IS AS OUTLINED IN THE PAPER I SENT YOU IN
REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 4TH.

AFTER READING THE POINTS YOU RAISE IN YOUR LETTER OF
OCTOBER 25TH, I WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE THE FOLLOW-
ING COMMENTS:

AS YOU KNOW, WE FEEL THAT THE REQUIREMENT STATED IN THE
REPORTS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE THAT THERE MUST BE A
"FIRM UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN, IS A
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VITAL AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE PROJECT.

WE COMPLETELY FAIL TO SEE WHY THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
SHOULD NOT DO THIS IN "THE MOST STRAIGHT-FORWARD MANNER"
AND WE FEEL IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ISRAEL, THE U.S.
AND THE REGION THAT THE UNDERTAKING BE IN A REGULAR
MANNER RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

AS TO THE FIGURE OF 25 MCM, WE WOULD, OF COURSE, RESERVE OUR POSITION AS TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 25 MCM AND 40 MCM.

THE PROVISION OF WATER TO THE WEST BANK SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WATER ALLOCATION OF THE YARMUK AND CANNOT POSSIBLY BE RELEGATED ONLY TO POSSIBLE RESIDUAL WATERS DURING THE RAINY SEASON. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS PRINCIPLE HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED UPON.

AS YOU KNOW, LAKE TIBERIAS WATER HAS ALREADY BEEN FULLY UTILIZED FOR MANY YEARS. IN SOME YEARS, IN FACT, WE HAVE HAD TO OVER-UTILIZE THE WATERS. THERE CAN, THEREFORE, OF COURSE BE NO QUESTION OF TAKING WATER AWAY FROM THE ESTABLISHED USERS. THE PRESENT PROJECT WAS ENVISAGED BY ALL AS INVOLVING STILL UNREGULATED WATERS AND NOT DEPRIVING PRESENT USERS OF REGULATED WATERS.

AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT PREVIOUSLY, ISRAEL IS WILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN FOR THE JOINT PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE WEIR AT ADASSIYAH. HOWEVER, THIS MUST BE DONE AS PART OF THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE YARMUK PROJECT AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE VIEWED AS A SEPARATE ISSUE.

AS TO THE STATUS OF HARZA IN SUCH A PROJECT, OUR POSITION IS AS STATED IN THE PAPER SENT IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 4TH.

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TION IS AS STATED IN THE PAPER SENT IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 4TH.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE AND I HOPE THAT I HAVE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR ON IT.

WITH BEST WISHES,

- YOURS SINCERELY,
- MOSHE ALON
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THE GOI IS STILL PLAYING HARD BALL.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 09 sep 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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